

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Programs and Services and Gifted Education Programs

I. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

The Weatherly Area School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) to provide a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) to “children with disabilities.” Pursuant to IDEA, students are considered to be children with disabilities if they need special education and related services and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

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| Autism | Hearing Impairment including Deafness |
| Orthopedic Impairment | Speech or Language Impairment |
| Deaf-Blindness | Mental Retardation |
| Other Health Impairment | Traumatic Brain Injury |
| Emotional Disturbance | Multiple Disabilities |
| Specific Learning Disability | Visual Impairment including Blindness |

The IDEA further requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between the age of three and the school district’s age of beginner known as “eligible young children.” The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the Weatherly Area School District. Eligible young children are afforded the same rights as school age children including screening, evaluation, and an appropriate program and services.

II. SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

The Weatherly Area School District must provide services to and may not discriminate against “protected handicapped students” in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment. Protected handicapped students may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

III. GIFTED EDUCATION

In Pennsylvania, school age students qualify to receive specially designed instruction when they have been identified as “mentally gifted.” A student is mentally gifted when he or she has outstanding intellectual and creative ability that requires specially designed programs or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The Weatherly Area School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including I.Q. score, which indicates gifted ability. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

IV. SCREENING AND EVALUATION

The Weatherly Area School District uses procedures to help identify children who may qualify for services, including parent/teacher referrals, review of student records and screening for hearing, vision and speech and language problems. If you believe that your child may be eligible for special education and related services or gifted education, screening and evaluation services designed to assess the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district’s public school program. Requests for screening and evaluation may be made in writing to the district address or your child’s building principal.

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In compliance with the requirements of the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), we ensure confidentiality of all appropriate student and family information. Parents/guardians and adult students have a right to inspect and review education records, amend education records, consent to disclose personally identifiable information in education records, and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. Further information regarding the confidentiality policy is available upon request.

✎ RIGHT TO REQUEST TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ✎

As a parent of a student at Weatherly Area Elementary School, you have the right to request the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:



1. Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches;
2. Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances;
3. The teacher's college major, as well as any advanced degrees that he or she may have attained;
4. Whether any paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please send a request in writing to your child's principal. In addition to specifying the information you would like to receive, please be certain to include your name, address, and a telephone number at which you can be contacted during the day.

➔ SENIOR STUDENTS' INFORMATION ◀

As required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Weatherly Area High School will release names, addresses, and phone numbers of 12th grade students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon their request. Parents and guardians of 12th grade students will receive a letter about this shortly.

If you wish to you have your child's name, address, and phone number excluded from this listing, please complete the lower portion of the aforementioned letter, and return it to the guidance office. If we do not receive a request in writing to exclude your child's information, it will be released in accordance with the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Please call the guidance office at 570-427-8521, ext. 5020 if you have any questions or concerns.



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The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents/guardians certain rights regarding Weatherly Area School District's conducting of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams. Further information regarding the PPRA policy is available upon request.

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Weatherly Area School District is an equal opportunity employer (EOE) and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sex or non-relevant handicap in activities, programs, or employment practices. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Business Manager at Weatherly Area School District, 602 Sixth St, Weatherly, PA 18255, 570-427-8681.

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Further information regarding the annual notices is available on the district website at www.weatherlysd.org or by contacting the building offices.